Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Winfield Thompson, Sr. was born on October 5, 1914, to Jacob and Jenny Wanna Thompson, one of twelve children; and,

Whereas, Birthdays commemorate the first day of our lives, and we celebrate the birthdays of those we love as we recognize the joys and sorrows we have shared, the strength we have gained from the obstacles and hardships we have conquered, and the small daily pleasures life offers; and,

Whereas, Winfield married Virginia Redday Thompson, and gave life and love to seven children, who in turn presented them with 15 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren; and,

Whereas, Winfield joined the Army on April 8, 1941, serving as a sergeant with the 192nd Tank Battalion, surviving the infamous Bataan Death March and enduring a prison camp for 3-1/2 years. He was liberated on September 19, 1945, and was discharged from the U.S. Army on May 6, 1946; and,

Whereas, Winfield enjoys watching baseball and football, especially the Minnesota Twins, playing cards with family and friends, playing the machines at the casinos on occasion, and most of all spending time with his family; and,

Whereas, Winfield will observe his 90th birthday on October 5, 2004, and will celebrate with all the good wishes, fanfare, and celebration such a milestone warrants, as his friends and relatives will gather on October 9, 2004, to honor him and celebrate his life and the camaraderie of the day; and it is fitting and proper for the Governor to make note of this milestone in the life of a man who has lived an exemplary life for all to emulate:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 9, 2004, as

WINFIELD THOMPSON DAY

in South Dakota, and I join all his many friends and relatives in wishing him a very happy birthday, good health, and great happiness.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fifth Day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State